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WHAT OUR OLDER CLUB GIRLS ARE DOING

A radio talk by Martha Hensley, District Club Specialist, Illinois, to be delivered Saturday, July 2, 1932, in the National 4-H club radio program, broadcast by a network of 59 associate NBC radio stations.

I know a window from which one can see seven vegetable gardens. Some are large and some are small. No two of the gardens contain exactly the same vegetables. Three years ago, these garden plots were not in existence. Today, each garden is supplying the need of an individual family. Since family needs and desires differ the gardens are not all the same. As it is with the gardens, so it is with club work for the older girl. In Illinois, we are trying to find out what the older girls need and want. When we find that they desire to carry on special projects, we develop those projects for them.

Let me tell you the stories of such projects older girls in five counties of the State are carrying on. I think these stories will explain to you how we plan the older girls' projects.

In McDonough County, in the western part of the State, 33 older girls have organized a fine room-improvement club. They meet every two weeks on Saturday afternoons and Monday nights. At the Monday night meetings they have their own business and project meeting; then the boys' and girls' club combine for recreation. At the last meeting 56 boys and girls were present.

In Rock Island County, a room-improvement club of older girls held regular meetings all last winter. They pieced a quilt. This spring, the girls gave a dance and sold their quilt. With the money they bought material to make uniforms for the boys and girls of an orphans' home in their community. Thus, these older girls worked together to fulfill a community need.

In Coles County, older girls have organized two home beautification clubs. The members of the clubs are studying either gardening or landscaping problems. There are twenty-five in each of these projects. Some are high school graduates and some are still in high school. Besides carrying on their regular project work members of one of these clubs have organized into sort of a drama guild. They have worked up fine plays and will give them for Parent-Teacher Associations, rural schools or church organizations. Recently a church charged admission and divided equally with the club. The club received \$33 for its part. The club has presented three plays on achievement-day programs.

Over in Hancock County, the Booster Club organization is very active. This club began in 1930. It started as a boys' and girls' county chorus. This group conceived the idea of making money to go to the University Club Tour. They made the money, but did not use it to go to the tour. They used it to send members to a county camp. Since 1930, the club has continued to be an active county organization. At present the Boosters' Club has sixteen members. They meet once each month during the club season. To encourage attendance at meetings, the club has adopted the policy of dropping from membership any person missing two consecutive meetings.

The present object of the club is to promote club work throughout the county. This spring at the club rally, the boosters staged a typical club program. They also had charge of the recreation. The home adviser in Hancock

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County says, "They are a group that you can rely upon for help in anything."

In Marshall-Putnam Counties, seven older club members are on the Girls Council and two act as officers in the 4-H Federation. They met with the Boys Council to plan the 4-H Jubilee in February, and worked splendidly making plans in advance and in lining up their own club booth. They were active as hostesses, ticket sellers, and wrap checkers during the Jubilee.

The home adviser called this group of girls together for an afternoon meeting to discuss the 1932 program for 4-H club work. She said at the time she was not certain that the meeting had much value, but later she was convinced of its value. Those girls went back to their communities and began to line up clubs and secure entries for the rally contest. They really seemed to feel a genuine responsibility.

These are a few instances of what our older 4-H girls are doing. Some of them too are acting as assistant leaders of local clubs. Many of them are active members of their home bureau organizations. We in Illinois recognize that the transition period between girlhood and womanhood is a vital time in the lives of our 4-H girls. Through extension activities, such as I have outlined, many of the girls are kept interested in home making problems during this period.